

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Frankfurt/Oder

RETURN TO CIA

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to 31 January 1952, the Artillerie Kaserne on August Bebelstrasse, Frankfurt/Oder (O 53/J 63), was occupied by about 800 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. About 180 soldiers were engaged in rifle drill in the billeting area on 24 January. Twelve artillery pieces were parked at the north side of the barracks installation. About 20 soldiers received training with two AA guns. Six trucks towing four 76.2-mm guns and a generator set were observed near the railroad bridge across the Oder River on 27 January. They

moved toward the city and were afterwards identified in the Artillerie Kaserne. One of the trucks was loaded with tables, chairs and iron stoves. One captain, 1 lieutenant and about 50 EM were seen with the vehicles. Trucks

each of them occupied by 15 to 20 soldiers armed 50X1-HUM with rifles and submachine guns, were observed entering the barracks installation from the direction of Rosengarten. About 150 soldiers trained with rifles and submachine guns at the barracks yard on 31 January under the supervision of 11 officers. About 40 soldiers practiced with four of the artillery pieces which were parked at the north side of the barracks installation. Motor vehicles observed entering the installation.

2. Prior to 30 January, the Buelow Kaserne on Fuerstenwalderstrasse, Poststrasse and Schillerstrasse was occupied by about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. Twenty-two canvas-covered AA guns were seen there on 24 January. Twenty soldiers were observed receiving training in firing, and 10 officers with map cases were seen entering the barracks installation from the direction of Rosengarten. Sedan 50X1-HUM occupied by two senior officers, entered the installation and left it after a short time. Trucks were parked in the billeting area.

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3. Prior to 31 January, the northeastern section of the Eichhorn Kaserne on Muellroser Landstrasse was occupied by only a few soldiers who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets. Some women were also seen there. The southwestern section was occupied by about 400 soldiers with black-bordered crimson epaulets. About 100 soldiers received rifle drill at squad level, while about

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20 soldiers practiced throwing hand grenades on 24 January. About 40 soldiers were observed engaged in individual field training in the Kieseberge (hills).

4. On 31 January, the Hindenburg Kaserne on August Bebelstrasse was occupied by about 500 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. One tank was seen entering the barracks installation on 24 January and two tanks on 28 January. Truck [ ] left the installation on 28 January. (1) 50X1-HUM
5. On 31 January, the Hofbauer Kaserne on Birnbaummuehlenweg was still occupied by about 50 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia. Shuttle traffic of vehicles continued at the installation. (2)
6. On 31 January, the Horn Kaserne on Nuhner Chaussee quartered about 600 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. SP gun [ ] was seen leaving, and tank [ ] entering, the barracks installation on 28 January. Twenty soldiers received rifle drill in the billeting area and another 30 soldiers outside it. SP gun [ ] and truck [ ] occupied by about 20 soldiers and coming from the direction of Rosengarten, were observed entering the barracks installation on 31 January. 50X1-HUM
7. On 31 January, the Ziethen Kaserne on Copernicusstrasse was occupied by about 700 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank and artillery insignia. Six canvas-covered armored vehicles were parked in front of the armory on 24 January. The turret was lifted off a tank by a crane in the armory. About 60 soldiers practiced with rifles and submachine guns at squad level in the barracks yard. Eight canvas-covered heavy armored vehicles were parked in front of the armory on 28 January. Truck [ ] occupied by about 20 unarmed soldiers, left the barracks installation. SP gun [ ] was seen entering the installation on 31 January. 50X1-HUM
8. No substantial changes could be determined in the situation at the military post prior to 10 February.
9. On 29 January, trucks [ ] each of them occupied by 8 to 10 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and towing a model 38 x 152-mm field howitzer, were observed moving out of the Ziethen Kaserne and heading for the Markendorf drill grounds. [ ] 50X1-HUM
10. On 24 January, three JS-2 tanks [ ] each of them occupied by six officers with map cases; and a model JSU-152 SP gun were seen entering the Horn Kaserne. [ ] 50X1-HUM
11. On 22 January, two groups, each consisting of 6 officers and 18 soldiers equipped with three model 41 x 82-mm mortars, were observed entering the Buelow Kaserne. Fourteen soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and carrying 5 rolls of field cable, 3 field telephones and 1 small portable switchboard, were seen marching out of the barracks installation. [ ]

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12. Vehicles seen coming from the Hofbauer Kaserne and heading for the railroad station included: trucks [redacted] each with about 20 officers, on 22 January; and trucks [redacted] each with 18 to 20 officers, on 26 January. Rocket launcher [redacted] occupied by 1 captain and 6 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, was observed entering the Hofbauer Kaserne on 31 January. [redacted] (2)

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13. Trucks observed leaving the Artillerie Kaserne toward Lossow on 2 February [redacted] each towing 37-mm AA gun; [redacted] Each truck was occupied by 6 to 9 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and was loaded with billeting equipment. [redacted]

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14. On 22 January, T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen leaving the Hindenburg Kaserne. About 80 soldiers, under the supervision of some officers, were seen servicing 16 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] at the barracks yard on 26 January. T-34/85 tanks [redacted] were seen leaving the barracks installation on 29 January, and [redacted] on 2 February. [redacted]

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15. On 31 January, a practice alarm was apparently conducted at the military post. Thirty-two T-34/85 tanks [redacted] 12 trucks, including [redacted] and 4 tank trucks were observed leaving the Hindenburg Kaserne toward Westkreuz after 8 p.m. [redacted] that other columns had left the barracks installation prior to that time. Several senior officers watched the departing vehicles at the barracks gate and subsequently followed the columns in sedans [redacted] JSU-2 tanks and JSU-152 SP guns were observed leaving the Horn Kaserne toward Lichtenberg. [redacted] trucks towing guns were seen leaving the Ziothen Kaserne, the Buelow Kaserne and the Artillerie Kaserne. No gun types [redacted] could be determined because of the darkness. No tanks were seen leaving the Buelow Kaserne. The aforementioned barracks installations appeared to be vacant after 10 p.m. The return of the columns was not observed. (1)

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16. On 2 February, 1 NCO and 4 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were observed [redacted] in a train on the Frankfurt/Oder-Berlin railroad line. [redacted] The soldiers left the train in Fuersterwalde. (3)

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17. [redacted]

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18. [redacted]

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[redacted] Comments.

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- (1) The report confirms previous conclusions regarding the identity of the units carried in the barracks installations at the Frankfurt/Oder military post. [redacted] Only the identity of the [redacted] units in the Ziethen Kaserne has not been fully determined. The presence of 152-mm artillery pieces at the Ziethen Kaserne is indicative of the unidentified guards howitzer artillery regiment of the 7th Gds Mecz Div, but the unit with tanks and tank insignia remains unidentified. The tank troops possibly are only the personnel operating the tank repair shop of the crews of tanks under repair, but it is also possible that the troops belong to the tank battalion of the 24th Gds Mecz Regt of the 7th Gds Mecz Div which is carried in Fuerstenwalde. [redacted]

[redacted] There is a possibility that, contrary to the T/E determined in World War II, the 122-mm field howitzers of the tank and mechanized divisions were at least partly replaced by 152-mm field howitzers. [redacted]

- (2) [redacted] Three rocket launchers in the Hofmann Kaserne in the spring of 1951 [redacted] were probably under repair. The rocket launcher mentioned in the present report belongs to the 7th Gds Mecz Div. [redacted]

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